



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology
Washington, D.C. 20201

June 6, 2023

Russell P. Branzell, CHCIO, LCHIME
President and CEO
CHIME 455 E. Eisenhower Parkway Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Dear Mr. Branzell:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) extend the comment period for the “Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Certification Program Updates, Algorithm Transparency, and Information Sharing” (HTI-1) proposed rule for an additional 30 days. We appreciate your organization’s review of the proposed rule, and we value your feedback on the extension of the comment period.

We agree that the need for successful implementation of the final rule is imperative. A first step to successful implementation is issuance of the final rule. To do so, ONC must receive and consider comments on the proposed rule so that we can issue the final rule. The sooner the final rule can be issued, the sooner the public and regulated entities will know the final regulatory policies and regulated entities can begin implementation.

A final rule based on the proposed rule would support interoperability, promote health equity, and support expansion of appropriate access, exchange, and use of electronic health information. For example, a proposal for the United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) v3 would set it as the new baseline standard across applicable certification criteria by January 1, 2025. Timely issuance of the final rule would support the proposed timeframe and implementation and improve nationwide, interoperable health information exchange. Further, any delay would also jeopardize successful implementation of other proposals that have accompanying timeframe requirements. Accordingly, we respectfully decline your request to extend the comment period of the proposed rule.

Thank you again for your letter and for your efforts to support health care and interoperability. ONC appreciates your ongoing engagement, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Micky Tripathi".

Micky Tripathi, PhD
National Coordinator for Health IT